

POLICY & FISCAL AFFAIRS BOARD MEETING

Department of Juvenile Justice Services

Director's Report

April 2, 2015

The Department of Juvenile Justice Services (DJJS) appreciates the significant support of the Board of County Commissioners and the Policy and Fiscal Affairs Board members.

2015 Legislative Update:

DJJS Supported Bills:

SB 58: The bill had a rewrite by the Chief D.A. Brigid Duffy. The bill would allow for sharing of information on youth between the school district and DJJS. An MOU and Policies would be put in place to keep information confidential and for business use only. It also adds a gross misdemeanor offence if the information is released inappropriately.

SB 99: Adam Walsh Bill. DJJS is requesting that the juvenile judge have authority to determine if a youth must register as a life time sex offender on the registry. DJJS also requested that the juveniles have clear separate language from adults in NRS.

AB 16: This is the Prison Rape Elimination Act (PREA) bill. DJJS has already been working on PREA compliance.

AB 113: This bill outlines the stipulations around the sealing of a juvenile's record. DJJS supports with some recommended changes by the D.A.s office.

AB 124: This is the bill that defines the age a youth can be declared a delinquent. The bill moves delinquent age to 10 from 8. The proposed changes would be keeping 8 years olds under juvenile to allow them to get resources for sex and major offenses. DJJS supported with amendments.

AB 178: School discipline bill that would limit the time for habitual truancy and gives more discretion for the school.

AB 216: School discipline is changed to allow superintendents to have more discretion. Language removes the charge of disturbing the peace for cursing and vile language.

DJJS Opposed Bills:

AB 260: The bill places all certified/convicted youth in state juvenile secure facilities. Currently the state has no such facility. DJJS is concerned that if there is any change this could impact the county.

DJJS Neutral w/Concerns:

SB 452: The bill would allow for certified youth to be remanded back to juvenile court/detention if not found guilty of the Charge that had them certified. DJJS is not sure how this bill will immediately

impact the department, but it raises concerns. As written an offender could be over 18 and be remanded back to juvenile court. These youth would have to be housed separately as they would be adults.

DJJS is currently tracking numerous other bills as well as seven (7) firearms/knives bills.

Personnel/Budget FY 2014

The 2015 Spring Peace Officers Standards Training (POST) Category II Academy started March 16th with eleven (11) cadets that will become Probation Officers in Detention.

Supervisor Training

The Department is designing "Supervisor Training" for all Supervisors in the Department. Training will be one day a week for the necessary length to cover all topics, to include:

1. "Juvenile Justice Overview"
2. "Effective Communication/Evaluations"
3. "Ethics of Influence"
4. "Finance"
5. "Union Contracts/Merit Personnel"
6. "Investigations"
7. "Incident Command"
8. "Stress Management"

Community Issues

- ✓ The Department is seeking to partner with the College of Southern Nevada in providing programs to youth that will assist in transitioning to adulthood. Once the collaboration is finalized, the goal is to provide portable certification programs to our youth that will prepare them for post-secondary education or the workforce.
- ✓ The Department has met with all of the major government stakeholders in determining their interest in partnering on an Assessment Center. Next steps are to determine what resources can be leveraged and conducting a gap analysis of what services will be required to successfully launch.
- ✓ The Department is also seeking opportunities to expand vocational education opportunities at the Spring Mountain Youth Camp and the community through Workforce Connections opportunities.
- ✓ The Department is partnering with the University of Nevada Las Vegas to conduct an extensive study of our current practices and how our practices affect recidivism.
- ✓ The Department is beta testing a screening tool for our Intake Hallway that will better assist Juvenile Probation Officers in determining appropriate services for low level offenses and to

identify signs of high risk behavior that can be forwarded internally for more in depth assessments to assist in deterring any escalation in criminal behavior.

- ✓ The Department continues to seek partnerships in the community and possible grant opportunities to begin exploration of an assessment center. Research indicates that connecting youth and families to meaningful services early on can deter further involvement in the juvenile justice system.

Spring Mountain Youth Camp (SMYC) and Residential Center (SMRC)

- ✓ The SMYC Basketball Team won the NIAA Division IV State Championship for the first time ever this season.
- ✓ SMYC Baseball and Track sports programs are underway.
- ✓ The SMRC is continuing to do a great deal of community service projects such as assisting the SNRHA, Federal, State, and County organizations, and many others.
- ✓ SMYC is starting a new fitness program called B.E.S.T. It stands for Body Efficiency Strength Training. Don Burnette and the DJJS have been working on this program to teach youth how to take care of their body and mind through training.
- ✓ The SMRC staff has done an excellent job and is continuing to bill Medicaid for its services.
- ✓ DJJS was approved for a \$2.3 million dollar grant to build a new residential center. Management did an excellent job preparing the grant as well as two presentations. The grant was approved by the BCC on March 3, 2015.
- ✓ SMYC and Hospitality International Training (HIT) will be graduating another six (6) youth in April. Another class will begin in April as well. These youth will have an opportunity to be employed in the culinary field upon release.

Juvenile Detention

- ✓ Detention showed a slight increase in population due to the incident at Silver State Academy in Yerington California.
- ✓ The Detention Division is preparing for upcoming PBS (Performance Based Standards) Data collection and reporting period, which consists of collecting the data from youth surveys, staff surveys, youth records and Incident reports.
- ✓ The Detention Division in collaboration with the District Attorney's office is preparing for operational changes due to upcoming legislative bills that will affect policies related to housing of youth certified to adult status and shackling of youth for court hearings.

- ✓ We have made several operational changes in our Booking area in collaboration with law enforcement agencies to ensure youth are not detained longer than necessary for Domestic Violence charges, in addition to positive changes to address the results of the Family TRACS audit referencing fingerprinting and photographs.
- ✓ The Detention Division has recently partnered with Professor Lonnie Wright for the HIT program that focuses on training unemployed veterans, youth and non-violent ex-offenders to fill in the void for this vast culinary workplace.
- ✓ In collaboration with the Children's Service Guild the division is creating a garden on the Detention campus where the youth can learn horticulture and landscape skills.
- ✓ The fall academy graduated 11 Juvenile Probation Officers, who are currently assigned to units and in the training phase. The spring academy kicked off on March 16, 2015 with eleven (11) cadets, with a tentative graduation date in early May.

Probation Division

- ✓ Evening Reporting Center (ERC)
The supervisor for the Evening Reporting Center, Jody Lupo, has been working on the development and implementation of the programming for the ERC. All staff assigned to the ERC recently completed Mediation Training offered by the Neighborhood Justice Center.
- ✓ Southwest Probation Center Relocation
The Southwest Probation Center will be relocating to 2655 S. Rainbow in July/August 2015 pending the finalized lease and Board of County Commissioner approval. The new location will house the Evening Reporting Center, Southwest Probation and Southwest Intensive Supervision Unit. The new location is easily accessible. The Southwest Center serves an area that is not representative of title, which includes 89004, 89102, 89103, 89107, 89108, 89113, 89117, 89118, 89128, 89129, 89134, 89135, 89138, 89139, 89141, 89143, 89144, 89145, 89146, 89147, 89148, 89149, 89161, 89166, Indian Springs and Mt. Charleston.
- ✓ Eastside Probation Center Relocation
Probation is exploring relocation options for the Eastside Center. The center is currently located at 4180 S. Pecos. The Eastside Probation is the smallest regional office (4,160 SF) and has outgrown the current location. The lease for this location expires in October/November 2015.
- ✓ Requests for Quote (RFQs)
The Department, through Purchasing, has published three (3) RFQs to enhance contracted substance abuse treatment services and access to outpatient mental health services. The RFQs focus on residential substance abuse services, outpatient substance abuse services and outpatient mental health counseling services. Sherry Wimmer (455-4476) is the contact person with the Purchasing Division for any inquiries. The RFQs are due by prospective vendors on April 20, 2015, with services beginning on or about July 1, 2015.

✓ Intake Screening Matrix

The Probation Division is working on developing and implementing a risk assessment tool to improve our current risk assessment practices. The Intake Matrix will be a structured tool that combines information about youth to classify them as being low, moderate or high risk for reoffending or continued delinquent activity, as well as identifying factors that might reduce that risk on an individual basis. The purpose of such a risk assessment tool is to help in making objective recommendations about youths' placement and supervision, and creating intervention plans that will reduce their level of risk. Goals of the matrix: minimize bias in judgments about youths' risk to public safety and their case management needs, cost reduction by decreasing inappropriate use of more intensive supervision, reduce the over-use of incarceration, improve the targeting of services/interventions, and improved resource development by providing a means for objective data tracking of the primary problem-areas of youth.

Clinical Services

- ✓ The Family Empowerment Program clinicians continue to provide an array of group treatment opportunities including topics such as domestic violence, anger management, critical thinking, and substance abuse.
- ✓ Clinical Services regularly meets with community hospital representatives (e.g. Desert Parkway & Montevista Hospital) in an effort to better serve our youth both in Detention and in the community. Our goals are to provide efficient acute admission and care for youth in Detention and thorough clinical intervention for youth on Probation in the community.
- ✓ The Residential Treatment Center (RTC) Screening Committee has planned their next site visit to Hermitage Hall in Georgia. Site visits have helped focus and build on areas of service that our youth require in addition to seeking out specialized treatment programs. Committee members have increased communication with the sites to continue the youth's success during transition back into the community.
- ✓ The Shield of Care suicide prevention training has incorporated several Probation Officers to help with the implementation of the course. We will be working with the Probation Training Committee to set up dates.
- ✓ The Family Empowerment Program clinicians continue to provide an array of group treatment opportunities including topics such as domestic violence, anger management, and critical thinking.